



LIFESTYLE COLUMNISTS | AT YOUR LIBRARY

What is the right baby name?

Yesterday 8:55 p.m.

Did you know approximately 4 million babies are born every year in the United States? I didn't know that. That's a lot of babies ... and a lot of diapers! Besides brushing up on parenting skills, getting your nursery ready, baby-proofing your home, and other tasks, one item every baby must have is a name.

Selecting the right name for your child can be a long and drawn out process where both parents have to agree upon a name ... and of course your family and friends are going to want to weigh in as well. If you're struggling to find that perfect name, your Abilene Public Library can help with a number of guides providing you with lists of great names for your bundle of joy.

From traditional to "far out there," there's no limit to what people name their kids today. Some celebrities have broken the mold when it comes to choosing a name. Did you know Nicolas Cage's child is named Kal-El or Jason Lee's child's name is Pilot Inspektor? Would the names Moon Unit, Diva Thin Muffin or Audio Science be the first names that pop into your head for your child?

You probably won't go to that extreme, but still, that just proves there's no limit to what you can name your child. However, you should probably take into account that as they grow older, you might not want to have them suffer through the schoolroom taunts and other indignities that will lead to resentment as they get older; but that's a

whole other issue.

If you need help in choosing a name, allow us to help as we have a number of great baby naming guides available for you to checkout. June Rifkin wrote the book, "The Everything Baby Names Book," that gives you exactly what's in the title. In this book, you'll find 50,000 of today's best names. Additionally, you'll get insight on how a name can affect a child's sense of self and how to choose a name that honors your heritage and your child.

If you need more of a selection, try Bruce Lansky's "The New Baby Name Survey." This book is described as "An alphabetical listing of 1,800 baby names, their origins and meanings, the perceived images of people with these names, and their famous namesakes."

Perhaps you need to choose a name using a different technique. If so, try out "Baby Names Made Easy: The Complete Reverse-Dictionary of Baby Names" by Amanda Elizabeth Barden. This book is divided into categories to make your searching more effective. This helps when looking through alphabetical lists of names can get tiring, and before you know it you've chosen the name Adam because you couldn't make it through the A's. (Please note, Adam is a great name for a child. I just used it as an example.) With this book, you can work your way backward to get to the name you want by looking at various subject guides including animals and insects, victory, love and affection, religion and faith, and many others to find names that relate to those topics.

But if you're looking to go off the beaten path, we do have books that will help you. For instance, books you can peruse include "Sci-Fi Baby Names: 500 Out of This World Baby Names" by Robert Schnakenberg, "The World's Coolest Baby Names," or even "The Complete Idiot's Guide to 40,000 Baby Names" by Marcia Layton Turner, which includes sections of vampire names you could choose.

Regardless of what name you select, it's going to be one that is with

your child for the rest of his or her life, so take the time to find the perfect name and checkout one of our many guides available at your Abilene Public Library. Perhaps we can make the task a little easier. However, if you choose a name that someone in your family or circle of friends doesn't agree with, please know that it won't be a valid argument to blame your library.

Tremain Jackson is manager of the South Branch of the Abilene Public Library.

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